STILL DEBATING ELECTION BILL

Federal House in Session Long After Midnight—As to Seed Grain Purchased.

Ottawa, May 12.—At the opening of the House of Commons yesterday afternoon, Sir Frederick Borden, on a question of privilege, took exception to an article in the Ottawa Citizen, wherein it was claimed that the minister was withholding a report on the Ross rifle, and stated that tests proved the weapon inefficient. The minister produced a report which was made to the House on March, 1907.

Col. Worthington inquired if the two rifles compared with the Lee-Metford in the Royal School of Musketry, and if the report was favorable. The minister claimed that all faults were remedied, before the report reached the House, also the contract price of the rifles, $25, does not include the inspection fee, $1.90. A million and a half has been paid for the rifles up to date.

In answer to Messrs. Borden and Foster, Hon. Mr. Brodeur said the Montcalm would be raised this week. A preliminary examination will be held under water. Commander Spain will select two assessors and hold a further investigation. In reply to W. F. McLean (Conservative, South York), Hon. Frank Oliver stated that the department had purchased 1,220,850 bushels of oats, 49,924 bushels of barley and 576,435 wheat for seed grain, but had no information as to the price paid or where purchased.

Dunian Ross (Liberal, Yale-Cariboo) resumed the debate on Aylesworth's election bill, declaring that a man who had a right to vote must look to the Dominion for his Federal vote. It was absolutely necessary that the Dominion have the franchise of its own. He declared Dr. Roche, F. D. Monk and Hon. Mr. Foster had all changed their views. They formerly protested against the provincial lists. He declared that the act, as he understood it, merely provided for a revision by Federal revising judges of the provincial lists. Mr. Ross said that in British Columbia the game of politics was played fairly. They did not buy votes nor switch ballots, and the lists were fairly honest, though it was true they were loaded with absentees and dead men's names. But since British Columbia had an attorney general who would attack the king if could make political capital out of it, he did not think it proper that an honest returning officer should be subject to attack by so partizan a minister.

Mr. Schaffner (Conservative, Souris) followed, eulogizing the Manitoba act. He wished to know why the revision provided for in the act was not done by judges or barristers appointed by judges so that politicians would have nothing to do with the work. Dr. Schaffner continued wondering why Manitoba was placed in the same category as the backtownships in Ontario, and pointed out that the present law was satisfactory, while the Provinces all had Liberal administrations. He pointed out that the Opposition was supported by every independent newspaper. He claimed that the Minister of Justice had said barristers revised the Manitoba list, giving the impression to parliament that they were appointed by the Provincial governments, whereas the judges, or barristers appointed by judges, did the revising. He contended that in most cases the registering districts corresponded with the polling booths, and cases where there were no post office addresses in the voters' lists were rare. The minister had charged that the names of hundreds of dead men and absentees were on the lists, whereas the lists were annually revised and purified. As to the temptation of impersonation, what about Ontario?

S. J. Jackson (Liberal, Selkirk), followed. As a specimen of the Manitoba law, he said that in 1906, before the provincial elections, an average of 253 names were struck off or added in each of the four constituencies. He complained of the instability of the Manitoba law for several years. Under the Greenway regime not only was the law better but it was better administered. He claimed that it cost $40 to get a list from the government. He took issue with the Hon. Mr. Rogers' figures as to the number disfranchised in 1904, and challenged W. D. Staples (Conservative, Macdonald), to point to one name left off the list in Selkirk, the list whereof he himself was in charge. Mr. Jackson claimed that of the names struck off in Stonewall, another place where Rogers claimed 270 were struck off, none were struck off who were entitled to vote. He instanced forty names at Lac Du Bonnet, where the registration officer had gone after the work was completed elsewhere, and despite the warning of the attorney-general, had sent the books in at once. These names were confirmed and certified to, but were not on the lists when they reached the polling officer and the men were disfranchised. Mr. Jackson eulogized R. E. A. Leech, and dwelt on the fact that the "Thin Red Line" prosecutions were not pushed, and he concluded by declaring that the law would remedy many evils in Manitoba. Wm Wright (Conservative, Muskoka), closed the debate long after midnight, taking up the Ontario side of the question. He failed to see the necessity of the new law.

Brandon-Regina Line Soon Opened.

Winnipeg, May 14—D. D. Mann, of the C. N. R., before leaving for the east, made the statement that the ballasting trains would soon be put on the Brandon-Regina branch line and as soon as could be it would be put into a good operating condition, and freight and passenger service would be started. It is intended to make it one of the principal traffic lines in the country.

MASTERS AND MATES EXAMINER APPOINTED

Captain Demers, Ottawa, Names Captain Grant as Examiner for Masters' and Mates' Certificates for This Part of West.

Captain L. A. Demers, F.R.A.S., chief examiner of masters and mates at Ottawa, was in the city this week on his initial trip to the Capital of Alberta. While here he appointed Captain Grant, of this city, as examiner of masters and mates for this part of the west. He left the city today on the C. P. R. for the Pacific coast.

To a Bulletin representative yesterday Captain Demers stated that he was taking his regular trip of inspection through the country. Representations had been made at Ottawa that there was a need of an examiner of masters and mates at Edmonton. Vessels were being built to operate upon the various lakes and rivers in the country. According to the marine regulations all vessels built and manned in the country must be officered by a captain and a mate, who have secured a certificate. Prior to this time the nearest examiner was at Nelson, B.C., or West Selkirk, Man., and all candidates for masters' or mates' certificates had to go to either of these places to take the examination. Capt. Demers accordingly made a trip to Edmonton and appointed Captain Grant to this position, the appointment to take effect from July 1st, 1908.

Captain Grant is an old sailor on both salt and fresh water. He is a Pictou, N.S., man, and for many years had charge of sailing and steam vessels out of St. John. He is the first examiner of masters and mates to be appointed in Alberta or Saskatchewan. Besides granting certificates to masters and mates, Captain Grant has also power to issue permits to vessels on coast or inland waters. There are now twenty examiners in Canada.

Speaking of steam, gasoline or electric launches, Captain Demers stated that according to the present regulations every launch that carried passengers for hire had to be in charge of a certificated captain and engineer. The engineers certificates in the west are granted by George Phillips, of Kenora, who has charge of western Canada from Port Arthur to the Pacific coast.

Besides being chief examiner of masters and mates in Canada, Captain Demers is also superintendent of marine schools in the Dominion. He has twelve of these schools under his charge, located at Halifax, St. John, Yarmouth, Victoria, Vancouver, Collingwood, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec North Sidney and Lunenburg. Prior to taking his present position Captain Demers started the first marine school in Canada at Halifax and it proved so successful that the government took charge of it and established others.

This was Captain Demers' first visit to Edmonton and he stated that he was agreeably surprised at the size and evident importance of the city. He had been told down the line that Edmonton was a boom town with the boom burst. He had found out very differently, however, when he arrived in Strathcona and saw the large city looming up on the north bank of the Saskatchewan. Captain Demers left on the C. P. R. today for the Pacific coast, where he will inspect the marine schools and the examiners of masters and mates in British Columbia.

MRS. MELVIN-JONES' VERY NARROW ESCAPE

Exciting Runaway in Toronto, in Which Former Winnipegers Were Severely Injured—Coachman Was Cut About Head.

Toronto, May 13.—Mrs. (Senator Melvin Jones and her doughter, former residents of Winnipeg, were injured, the former quite seriously, and their coachman, James Brennan, cut about the face and head in a lively runaway down Yonge street here yesterday afternoon.

The ladies had a very narrow escape. They had driven up Yonge street and the coachman was trying to cross the road near Walton street, when the carriage was struck by a south-bound College avenue car. The car had almost stopped before it struck, but the force of the impact threw Mrs. Jones to the ground. A citizen carried her into a neighboring news-stand, where her injuries were attended to. As soon as she could speak she asked for her daughter, and was assured that Miss Jones was not badly hurt. A pet dog that had been in the carriage followed into the store, although one of its legs was broken. The animal was immediately taken to a veterinary. Meantime the team was careering down Yonge street with the carriage.

When Mrs. Jones was thrown from the carriage, the coachman also went headlong. People in the stores nearby declare that it a wonder he was not killed. He was thrown forward about a dozen feet and lit on the sidewalk on his head. With Miss Jones the maddened horses rushed across the street, she jumped out. In her fall, Miss Jones sustained painful injuries.

She Struck a Bicycle,

which was standing at the curb, and it was likely this which caused her worst hurts. Nothing could stop the horses. They ran into a fruiterer's cart and spilled the contents. At Queen street Policeman Peacock made a vain attempt to stop the runaway. The horses carried him a block, ruined his uniform, bruised him badly and forced him to let go. A bicycle at the curb was picked up by the carriage and carried along. At King and Yonge streets Policeman Redford saw the horses coming in good time and cleared the busiest corner in Toronto of traffic. The team got past without injuring anybody, and finally wound up on Front street, having locked wheels with a cart and overturned a pushcart en route. The driver of the former was thrown to the ground, but was not hurt. At Front street one of the horses got his leg jammed between the box and the forewheel, thus stopping the carriage.

Mrs. Jones was found to have been quite severely shaken up; she had an ugly cut upon her forehead. Her daughter sustained a scalp wound at the back of her head. Dr. Temple accompanied the ladies to their residence, 145 St. George street. The coachman was cut across the chin and had to have ten stitches put in. He got another severe cut on the top of the head, but was able to go to his home at 79 Lowther avenue, after his injuries had been attended to at St. Michael's hospital.

The two ladies were reported much improved this morning, though it is probable that they will have to keep to their rooms for a few days.

THE DOMINION LINER OTTAWA IN COLLISIO

With Norwegian Steamer in Gulf of St. Lawrence, Results in Considerable Damage to the Ottawa, Now Steaming Back to Quebec.

Montreal, May 12—The steamer Ottawa sailed from Montreal on Saturday with a good list of passengers and a light cargo. She passed Fame Point on her way down the gulf at four o'clock Sunday afternoon, and yesterday afternoon, at four she steamed slowly past the signal station at Fame Point on her way back, signalling:—

"Have been in collision with Norwegian steamer Thorold, considerably damaged. The forehold is full of water; passengers all well."

The Canadian Pacific wrecking tug Cruiser is following the Ottawa about a half hour behind on her way up the St. Lawrence for the summer season. This will be available if her services are required. The Ottawa was steaming about 15 knots an hour, so it is calculated that the collision must have occurred fully 150 miles below Fame Point, where there is practically open sea, the gulf being 25 miles wide there. It probably occurred shortly before daylight on Sunday morning.

Officials of the Dominion line have no further information on the matter, but conclude that there must have been a heavy fog at the time, although the river reports do not indicate any trouble from that source. It is expected that the Ottawa will reach the signalling station at Father Point some time tomorrow and that at the rate she is travelling she will not make Quebec until tomorrow night or Wednesday morning

Mr. Thom, of the Dominion line, stated yesterday evening that from the fact that her injuries were not more serious he concludes that the collision could not have been a very serious one.

Coal Steamer Badly Damaged.

Montreal, May 12—Word has been received here that the Norwegian coal steamer Thorold which was in collision with the Dominion liner Ottawa on Sunday night, has put into Cape Basin in a badly damaged condition.

L.I.D. 27-R-4 MEETING.

The third council meeting of Local Improvement District 27-R-4 was held in the Agricola School House recently with Councillors Lackey, Jackson, Davies, Nelson and Murphy present. After some discussion it was moved that the Department of Public Works should be asked for an appropriation to the amount of $160 to cover the Slough already corduroyed, between Sections 7 and 18, Tp. 53, R. 22, W 4th, and that H. Lackey be foreman of this work. It was also decided to ask the Department of Public Works for an appropriation to the amount of $100 for grading and dieing between Sections 10 and 15 Tp. 53, R. 22, W. 4th and recommending that H. Lackey be foreman.

On the motion of Councillors Jackson and Davies it was decided that each councillor should have full authority to appoint his own foreman and lay out work in his own division.

Agricola, Alta., May 12.

ALWAYS WALKS BACKWARD.

Henry Miller a Victim of the Lure for Gold—Brought to Vancouver.

Vancouver, B.C., May 13.—Henry Miller, a victim of the lure of a search for gold and of the strain of silent days and nights in the bush of the north, was brought down Monday by the steamer Amur. Miller's mind has become so unhinged that he always walks backward. Perfectly rational in other respects he cannot be persuaded but that his locomotion is different to his fellow beings. He was found wandering near his little cabin at Skidegate. Miller will be examined by the doctors at Westminster asylum.

Jury's Extraordinary Decision.

Halifax, May 14—An extraordinary decision of a coroner's jury is reported from Glace Bay. An inquest had been held over the remains of an infant which had probably died of natural causes. Because the birth had been concealed the authorities took action. They found the death had resulted from an unknown cause and forthwith ordered the child's remains be thrown into the furnace of the town hall for cremation. Public indignation has been aroused by the affair. The mother is in the hospital.

$25,000 Fire in Merlin.

Merlin, Ont., May 13.—Fire that started in the Merlin Mirror office this morning, spreading to adjoining buildings, notwithstanding hard work of the citizens, did damage to the extent of $25,000 before being subdued. Losers are: Merlin Mirror office and residence above, totally destroyed; insured. A. W. Smith, block, jewelry store and barber shop destroyed, contents mostly saved, insured; I. Abrams, general store insured; vacant building owned by M. Hall, insured; block of C. Fraser, a shoe shop, insurance not known.

NO NEW LICENSES ARE APPLIED FOR

Meetings of Various Boards of License Commissioners in Province — Only One Renewal is Withheld—Improvement in Standard of Hotels.

(From Thursday's Bulletin.)

Various boards of License Commissioners throughout the Province of Alberta held meetings last week and in some districts the boards will meet this week to consider the applications for renewal of hotel and wholesale liquor licenses. Mr. John Rae, of the Liquor License Branch of the Attorney General's Department, and Mr. W. A. Deyl, Chief License Inspector, were out all last week attending the meetings of the commissioners. Mr. Rae returned to the city yesterday and Mr. Deyl's work in this connection will be completed on May 18th.

Mr. Rae informs the Bulletin that so far no new applications for licenses have been received but several are expected before the work of the commissioners is completed. Of the large number of applications for renewals only one, that of the Cecil Hotel at Hardisty, was refused a renewal of license. Several, however, have been laid over for further consideration.

In District No 1, comprising Edmonton and Strathcona the meeting was held on May 1st. At this meeting the application of the St. Emile and Farmers' Hotel at Legal; of Carl Gitzel and J. E. Laurencelle for licenses at Spruce Grove; of the Alberta and Morinville Hotel Co., at Morinville; and of the Joseph Chamberlain Hotel at Leduc were all laid over for further consideration on May 26th. All other renewals were granted.

The meeting in District No 3 comprising Daysland, Stettler, Lacombe and Olds were held on May 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th respectively. The applications of R. J. Fergusson and Chas. Hansen, of Stettler, were only recommended for renewal for a period of six months, and the board acted on the recommendation. The consideration of licenses for the city of Wetaskiwin was postponed until the 28th of May. In the same division the application of Messrs. Kleckner and Lightbody for renewal of the Royal Hotel license at Ponoka was adjourned for a meeting to be held at Red Deer on May 27th. In this district the application of the Cecil Hotel at Hardisty was refused.

On May 8th the board for district No. 9 comprising the city of Calgary, granted all applications for renewal with two exceptions. The applications of C. D. Taprill for renewal of the Alberta Hotel and of the Moodie Liquor Co. for renewal of wholesale liquor license was laid over until Tuesday, May 26th at Calgary for further consideration. No applications were received from the Palace Hotel and Braemar Lodge at Calgary and it is understood that none will be made.

The sittings of the board for Calgary on May 9th and at Banff on May 11th. At Calgary Mr. Soper's application for renewal at Airdrie was adjourned for consideration on May 26th. The applications of Laird Bros., of Shepard, Freeman and Walker, of High River, and John Jacques, of Gleichen, were adjourned for further consideration on June 10th at Calgary. At Banff the application of the Sanitarium Hotel Co., was laid over until May 26th for further consideration Mr. Deyl is attending the district meetings at Macleod, Lethbridge, Pincher Creek, Frank and Medicine Hat.

Mr. Rae said that the trend of the meetings showed that the standard of the hotels all over the province is being raised. As a class the improvement is very marked. In considering the various applications, said Mr. Rae, great stress was laid on the equipment of the hotels in regard to fire protection.

OWEN SOUND STRIKERS HOLD OUT FOR MORE

Collections Taken up in Churches to Assist Salvation Army in Feeding C. P. R. Dock Laborers.

Owen Sound, May 12—Strikers notified the C. P. R. this morning that they would offer a new scale, which does away with the bonus system, of which there is considerable complaint. The rate is fifteen and sixteen cents for overtime. If these terms are decided upon it will be a victory for the men.

On Sunday night the Northern Navigation steamer was forced to withdraw from the C. P. R. dock and unload at the Grand Trunk sheds where the truckers get 17 cents and freight stowers 20 cents. Today the C. P. R. liner Manitoba arrived and was compelled to remain at the passenger wharf. Over three hundred men have been dumped here, many of them, it is alleged by misrepresentation, in an effort to replace the strikers.

Collections were taken in many churches to assist the Salvation Army to feed the destitute men. The only violence was when an attempt was made with a few men to unload the Dundee. A crowd of men armed with fish plates threatened to throw them in the machinery unless work stopped. It was stopped. Through the efforts of councilmen the company agreed to offer eighteen cents per hour for regular work and 24 cents for over time and Sunday work, with two cents an hour bonus. Two weeks' notice of quitting, and twenty cents without bonus for coal or grain. The men refuse unless they get a two year's agreement and a guarantee of each striker getting back with an offer to care for the Toronto contingent.

Doukhobors in Fruit Region.

Nelson, May 14—Eighty-five Doukhobors arrived at their destination, Waterloo, on the Columbia river, tonight. A large party of Russian and Polish farmers have arrived to settle south of here on fruit farms.

Decree of Divorce Granted.

Paris, May 14—A decree of divorce has been granted both to Mr. and Mrs. McKee. McKee was ordered to contribute a thousand francs monthly to the support of the child. The wife was granted the custody of the child. Th ecourt said that both contributed to the unhappiness of the household.

THE FARMERS ARE WELL SATISFIED

Hundreds of Letters Received Concerning Excellence of Seed Grain Says R. E. A. Leech.

(From Monday's Bulletin.)

R. E. A. Leech, of Brandon, who is in charge of the distribution of seed grain to the farmers in Western Canada by the Dominion government, arrived in the city yesterday on the C. N. R. and went south to Calgary this afternoon. Mr. Leech is taking a trip through the west in connection with the closing up of the work of the distribution of this grain and stopped at Edmonton to look into the conditions here. He visited the seed grain branch this morning both at the Dominion lands office and at the provincial government buildings and found everything in satisfactory condition.

Speaking to a Bulletin representative this morning Mr. Leech stated that practically all of the applications for seed grain in Alberta and Saskatchewan had now been filled. The department had had a busy time of it this year. They had distributed about 1,500,000 bushels of grain in the west, the greater proportion of which was oats. About 16,000 applications had been received and about 40,000 separate consignments of grain sent out. There was a quantity of oats left after all applications had been received and this was being sold, western oats at 70c per bushel and imported oats at 85c. The supply of wheat had been just about sufficient, but the department had been unable to secure enough barley to supply the demand.

Mr. Leech stated that the farmers throughout the west were apparently well satisfied with the grain distributed. Very few complaints had been received as to the quality of the grain distributed and the department had on file hundreds of letters from farmers from all parts of the country expressing their satisfaction with the grain distributed and commending the government's method of handling the problem which the grain shortage caused.

"The season throughout the west has been ideal for the farmers so far," said Mr. Leech. "The spring opened out fully one month earlier than last year and seeding is well advanced. The warm, sunny weather with occasional rains has done much to promote growth and the farmers are everywhere hopeful of a bountiful and early harvest. The crop acreage is considerably larger than last year, showing that the farmers have faith in the country."

BUSINESS OF THE COUNTRY HELD UP

Continued from page one.

visitors, and they had asked that no troops be moved for a certain number of days before or after the celebration.

In view of this situation, and the change made he was not prepared to make a statement as to what would be done towards taking the troops to Quebec. He understood that some city regiments had offered to go to Quebec and do their annual twelve days' drill; thus doing eighteen days' drill for twelve days' pay, but so far no definite arrangement had been made.

Claimed It Is Repetition.

W. D. Staples (Conservative, Macdonald), on resuming the debate on the Election act, referred to the vagueness of the Premier and his unwillingness to withdraw a single clause. He has not conceded a single thing that the Manitoba law had not already provided. Why was Manitoba singled out? The government had kept back lands and timber, and was now plucking away the franchise. Mr. Staples then turned his attention to the speeches of the western members, finally charging that this bill was inspired by Clifford Sifton and was turned down by the Minister of Justice, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, in 1903, and now was resurrected.

Referring to the Premier's former denial of knowledge of that bill, Mr. Staples asked again if the Premier remembered it.

The Premier replied—"If the bill was drafted it never came to my knowledge."

Mr. Staples said he accepted the statement, but has a copy of the bill, turned out by the printing bureau.

"Here it is. Conceived in iniquity, born in sin, and killed by the minister of justice."

S. J. Jackson (Lib, Selkirk) wanted the bill tabled as the original document.

Mr. Staples had no objection when he was through reading it. The Premier rose to a point of order.

"I said that to my recollection, no such bill was ever drafted."

Mr. Staples then read the bill, which he declared contained all the objectionable features of the present bill. When he finished reading, Mr. Staples said it was fortunate that they then had a minister of justice who would not permit such an iniquitous and nefarious bill to become law. He referred to the present minister as one of injustice, but withdrew the phrase on a protest from the chair. The Premier pointed out that all measures must come before the council, and there be adopted.

"I have no recollection of such a measure, but will make inquiries," he said.

Mr. Staples—"According to my information, a Liberal lawyer of Winnipeg assisted to draft the bill. The minister of justice refused to be a party. I say it was drawn up by the ex-minister of the interior to steal the constituencies of Manitoba."

The Premier read and returned the bill.

Concluding, Mr. Staples again asked why this province was singled out, why it was so anxious to get a slap at the province.

Intolerable Conditions.

F. B. Carvell (Lib., Carleton), followed Mr. Staples, declaring that the condition of things in Manitoba would not be tolerated in the Eastern provinces. The government members had given convincing proof of faulty administration of the law, and this was the reason for the introduction of this law. Mr. Carvell reviewed the speeches of Liberal members and their failure to prosecute the alleged offenders. He criticized Mr. Foster's inconsistency in regard to government officials taking part in elections, which had been encouraged when the Conservatives were in power. He declared that in stopping supplies the Conservatives would aid rather than embarrass the Liberals.

Mr. Borden pointed out to Mr. Carvell that there was plenty of need of reform in the New Brunswick lists, alluding to Rothesay, which Mr. Carvell had not mention.

Mr. Carvell interpolated that this had been corrected and a repetition rendered impossible.

Mr. Borden proceeded, reminding the Liberals that they had refused supplies in 1896. He said the Nova Scotia Conservatives would be delighted with a law similar to that proposed for Manitoba. There the assessors on the municipal basis often used their discretion to the detriment of the Conservatives, and the sheriffs who revise the lists are simply a part of the Liberal organization.

Agrees With Premier.

It is open to the government to adopt a non-partizan franchise, he said, and that the preparation of lists and final revision be in the hands of judges, who would appoint all officials throughout the Dominion, but such bill should not be decided on until a thorough inquiry had been made into all provincial systems. Mr. Borden then dealt exhaustively with the Nova Scotia franchise, indicating the need of change, and that frequent appeals had been made for it. With regard to the Premiers' proposal yesterday, he would accept it, and regard it as desirable, subject to the withdrawal of the first paragraph. He would not consider it fair that two provinces, whose laws were both reasonable, should be picked out. He urged that the secrecy ballot be maintained beyond doubt, and he believed the Premier favored this.

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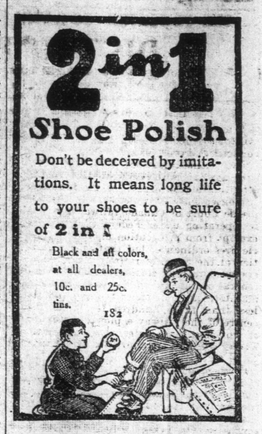

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